

## Essay by Ricky Allen

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If I were Mayor, I would like to provide my municipality with the services they need for public safety, maintenance, and recreation. We need more police on the streets. We could use more firemen and emergency equipment, if our budget will allow it. Garbage and leaf collection, and snow and ice removal, should be done in a timely fashion, as well as storm-drain cleaning and pothole filling.

We need more, and better transportation for the elderly and sick people to go to and from doctors, hospitals, community centers, and nursing homes. We could use more help for poor people to pay for utilities, medicine, and food.

Land should be set aside for green areas, parks, and playgrounds. We would have meetings and hearings for the public to decide how many, and where, these would be.

In addition to these services, we need a way to promote our community to attract more people from outside our area. I suggest that we build an Arts Center and theater which would hold events all year round, including local, national, and international performers and groups. We could also have an annual, week-long festival, with ethnic music, crafts, dances, and food, as a way to express our many unique cultures.

The services I want to provide will make for better community life. And the attractions at the theater and the festivals, would bring in visitors and money to help pay for my proposals. I know I have to submit a balanced budget for my city council to approve. I will work with them to get the best services that we can afford.